

parents. It allows young people to carry on their lives, and it allows the disabled to live an independent and productive life because of the Social Security benefit.

It is important that this debate be full of a factual content. It is not political. It is not Republican. It is not Democratic. It is really an American debate on how we want to take care of those most needy. What kind of separate umbrella do we provide? Do we eliminate the opportunity for 401(k)? Absolutely not. Private savings account? It is your choice.

Those who are in the generation under 45, under 50 have every right to establish their own private savings account, but it is not a place for Social Security. Social Security stands on its own feet as an investment in those in America, for those who have worked hard and those who may have no other options. And I believe it is important that we maintain Social Security and not break the bank by taking almost a trillion dollars, a trillion dollars to put in a private savings account.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure you in our congressional districts, Republicans and Democrats alike are understanding this issue. They know that this is divide and conquer, and they know it is wrong. Social Security deserves to be saved.

I want to speak very quickly about this whole issue of low-performing schools and not educating America's workforce. The Governors over the past couple of days said that they are hesitant on putting No Child Left Behind in high schools because it is a problem. It is not working.

You can have regulations and yet have, if you will, no dollars; and that is what we are finding in Houston, Texas, the announcement of low-performing schools with no solutions. We are working in Houston, Texas, where the community has now come together, parents and others, forming caucuses around the idea of working to help those low-performing schools and give children an opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, regulatory entanglement is not the answer. Leave No Child Behind has left many children behind. We now have to get our hands involved, our hands on, and we have to work together as Americans but also as community people to ensure that our schools are working to educate our young people.

In Houston just a few days ago, we saw a terrible tragedy of a 6-month-old child abused, sexually abused, physically abused, huge bruises all over this child. This is an epidemic. First, I would like to thank the Texas Children's Hospital and Dr. Lyn in particular and all the doctors in the emergency room that now over the past couple of months have allowed this child to leave the hospital and go to a foster home.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to call for hearings here in the United States Congress. The Congressional

Children's Caucus will take up this issue to hold hearings, to hear from people around America of the epidemic of child abuse. If nothing else, an innocent child deserves the right to live a beautiful quality of life. The heinous and horrible people, parents or not, that would abuse a child both sexually and physically should be obviously put in the criminal justice system, and more importantly not be allowed to be able to have that child again.

We must protect our children, and I call for these hearings as well as legislation to stop the epidemic of child abuse.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 841, CONTINUITY IN REPRESENTATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-10) on the resolution (H. Res. 125) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 841) to require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 45 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 27, JOB TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-11) on the resolution (H. Res. 126) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 27) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, 109TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule XI of the Rules of the House, I submit for printing in the RECORD the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which were adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee on February 10, 2005.

COMMITTEE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE 109TH CONGRESS

(Adopted February 10, 2005)

RULE 1—APPLICABILITY OF HOUSE RULES

The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and its subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day is a privileged motion in Committees and subcommittees. Each subcommittee of the Committee is a part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and to its rules so far as applicable.

RULE 2—COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

REGULAR AND ADDITIONAL MEETINGS

(a)(1) The regular meeting day for the Committee shall be at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in such place as the Chairman may designate. However, the Chairman may dispense with a regular Wednesday meeting of the Committee.

(2)(A) The Chairman of the Committee may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to the call of the Chairman.

(B) The Chairman shall notify each member of the Committee of the agenda of each regular and additional meeting of the Committee at least 24 hours before the time of the meeting, except under circumstances the Chairman determines to be of an emergency nature. Under such circumstances, the Chairman shall make an effort to consult the ranking minority member, or in such member's absence, the next ranking minority party member of the Committee.

WIRELESS TELEPHONE USE PROHIBITED

(b) No person may use a wireless telephone during a Committee or subcommittee meeting or hearing.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

(c)(1) The Chairman, in the case of a hearing to be conducted by the Committee, and the subcommittee Chairman, in the case of a hearing to be conducted by a subcommittee, shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing unless the Committee or the subcommittee determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing at an earlier date. In the latter event, the Chairman or the subcommittee Chairman, as the case may be, shall consult with the ranking minority member and make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Clerk of the Congressional Record and the Committee scheduling service of the House Information Resources as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(2) Meetings and hearings of the Committee and each of its subcommittees shall be open to the public unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of House rule XI.

QUORUM AND ROLLCALLS

(d)(1) A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for business and a majority of the members of any subcommittee shall constitute a quorum thereof for business, except that two members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

(2) No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House of Representatives unless a majority of the Committee was actually present.